



# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 9, 2003

**TO:**

**FROM:**

**SUBJECT:** Calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for Districts

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The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) evaluate schools, districts and charter holders, and the entire state to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

The AYP determination for schools was released October 15, 2003.

As you were informed by the December 1<sup>st</sup> memo from Mr. Garrett Holm, the ADE has begun the process of evaluating district-level AYP. Final determination of AYP for districts and charter holders is scheduled to be released on January 30, 2004.

As required by the No Child Left Behind Act, the methodology and parameters used to calculate AYP for districts will be the same as the one used to calculate AYP for schools—with a few minor exceptions. Student-level data will be aggregated to the district level. For purposes of this evaluation, charter-holders will be considered districts.

To make AYP a district must:

1. Meet the intermediate goals for percentage of students proficient (i.e. passing the AIMS). The intermediate goals are identical to those for schools. The confidence interval and safe harbor methods will be applied to districts in the same manner they were applied to schools.
2. Assess 95 percent of its students. Again the methodology applied to districts will be the same as that applied to schools.
3. Meet the performance requirement for another indicator. For high school and unified districts, the other indicator will be a district-wide graduation rate. For elementary districts the other indicator will be a district-wide attendance rate. The performance requirements in both cases will be the same for districts as they were for schools.

The two significant changes from the calculation of AYP schools are:

1. Change in the determination of mobility. Mobile students will be omitted from the calculation as before. However, mobility will be determined at the district rather than school level. The AIMS test sheets indicate how many years a student has attended school within a district. Students who have indicated zero years will be omitted.
2. Cap on students taking an alternate assessment. The number of students who take an alternate assessment and are counted as proficient may be no more than 1 percent of total students included in the calculation for meeting the intermediate goals.

For further details, please contact the Research and Policy Division at (602) 542-5151 or [achieve@ade.az.gov](mailto:achieve@ade.az.gov), or visit the department's web site at <http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/>.